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# PRESS RELEASE

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## 4th Annual "Little Mo" Internationals Newport Beach, California WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Sponsored by



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[The Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation](#)

The "Little Mo" Internationals is one of the premier tournaments for boys and girls ages 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in addition to the "Big Mo" division for ages 13 and 14. The "Little Mo" is also unique in that it gives young players the opportunity to gauge their ability against others who are the same age. These events are designed to provide good competition for the younger player while also encouraging players to develop new friendships, learn good sportsmanship, and most of all, have fun.

The "Little Mo" Internationals is our flagship event for international players, bringing together the youngest and brightest stars in tennis from around the world. Many famous tennis professionals have participated in the "Little Mo" program over the years including Andy Roddick, Ryan Harrison, Taylor Townsend, Vasek Pospisil, Borna Coric, Madison Keys, Donald Young, Steve Johnson, Denis Kudla, CiCi Bellis, Ana Konjuh, and Belinda Bencic. Roddick won the "Little Mo" event in 1992 at 10 years of age and said, "the 'Little Mo' was my first big win!"

The Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation (MCB) is proud to present the winners from the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Little Mo" Internationals in Newport Beach, California at the beautiful Tennis Club at Newport Beach Country Club. The tournament featured over 175 players from 17 different countries worldwide including Australia, Bahamas, Canada, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Thailand, United Kingdom, and 16 states across the USA.

**Boys 14** - Darian Quinonez (San Jose, California)  
**Boys 13** - Maxence Coiteux (Blainville, Canada)  
**Boys 12** - Perry Digiulio (Newport Beach, Canada)  
**Boys 11** - Abhinav Chede (Gilbert, Arizona)  
**Boys 10** - Dominick Mosejczuk (East Elmhurst, New York)  
**Boys 10 (green dot)** - Noah Johnston (Anderson, South Carolina)  
**Boys 9** - Tito Chavez (Quito, Ecuador)  
**Boys 9 (green dot)** - Enoch Lin (Calgary, Canada)  
**Boys 8** - Nile Ung (Del Mar, California)  
**Boys 8 (green dot)** - Andreas Udall (San Diego, California / France)

**Girls 14** - Italia Jones (Tustin, California / Puerto Rico)  
**Girls 13** - Rebecca Lynn (Newport Beach, California)  
**Girls 12** - Stacey Samonte (Whittier, California)  
**Girls 11** - Rachel Lee (San Diego, California)  
**Girls 10** - Akasha Urhobo (Lauderhill, Florida)  
**Girls 10 (green dot)** - Ava Degrand (Calgary, Canada)  
**Girls 9** - Natalie Oliver (Fallston, Maryland)  
**Girls 9 (green dot)** - Juliana Singeorzan (Lincolnwood, Illinois)  
**Girls 8** - Anita Tu (Jacksonville, Florida / Canada)  
**Girls 8 (green dot)** - Martina Roversi (Miami, Florida)

A special congratulations to Gabriel Jarrett (Bradenton, Florida) and Manuela De Lorenzo (Avellino, Italy) for receiving the "Little Mo" Sportsmanship Awards. The Kindness Awards were presented to Juan Velasco (Bogotá, Colombia) and Jeselle Ante (Tarzana, California).

The festivities began on Friday, June 30 with a complimentary clinic for all players with Wayne Bryan, father and coach of the famous Bryan Brothers doubles team. Following the clinic was the spectacular Player Parade, whereby all players paraded onto the stadium court waving their country flags proudly. Irene Huang sang the National Anthem and Maureen Connolly's daughter, Cindy Brinker Simmons, was the guest speaker at the Opening Ceremony. Players competed in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles during the week. For full results, please visit the tournament homepage at [www.littlemocalifornia.com](http://www.littlemocalifornia.com).

There was a fun player party held at Boomer's on Saturday evening with a rock wall, go-karts, bumper boats, arcade games, and mini golf. "Little Mo" Tournament Chairman and MCB Executive Vice-President Carol Weyman presented the trophies. Wilson was the "Official Ball and Racquet" sponsor and provided string for all of the players. K-Swiss was the "Official Apparel and Footwear" sponsor and provided the t-shirts for the event.

The "Little Mo" tournaments are sponsored by the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation in memory of its tennis champion namesake Maureen "Little Mo" Connolly. Known by her nickname "Little Mo", she was the first woman to win the Grand Slam of tennis in 1953 – winning all four major tournaments (Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and U.S.

Open) in the same year. She is still the only American woman and the youngest at age 18 to have accomplished this magnificent feat.

In honor of Maureen's 60th anniversary of winning the Grand Slam in 1953, MCB created the ultimate challenge in 2013 for any player to win the "Little Mo" Slam. If a player can win their yellow ball division at all three "Little Mo" Internationals in the same year, they will receive the tallest trophy ever given in junior tennis (6' tall) and the title of "Little Mo" Slam Champion! This year will mark the 64th anniversary of Maureen "Little Mo" Connolly's Grand Slam win in 1953.

The "Little Mo" Slam continues this year with the 1st leg held in July at the Tennis Club at Newport Beach Country Club in California. The second leg will be held at The West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, New York (August 21-26) and the 3rd and final leg at the PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida (December 1-6). There have been six "Little Mo" players who have accomplished this great achievement in the past four years. There are ten players in the running for the 2017 "Little Mo" Slam after winning the first leg in California. One of these winners was the 2016 "Little Mo" Slam winner Akasha Urhobo from Lauderhill, Florida. She will be competing in New York and is the first player to attempt to win a second "Little Mo" Slam title.

The Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation has promoted junior tennis development for 49 years and continues to benefit countless numbers of boys and girls throughout the United States and worldwide. Next year, the Foundation will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. For more information about the "Little Mo" tournaments, please visit [www.mcbtennis.org](http://www.mcbtennis.org).



**Inside Tennis**



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